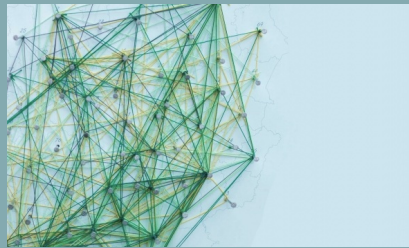


# NEWSLETTER

May 2021



Our new funding programme for 2021-27 is nearly finalised and we are in the midst of preparing a first call for project proposals. Before we officially launch the call, you can already read through our draft founding document (see news below). It defines how we will support cooperation in central Europe in four focused priorities. While our priorities are changing in many ways, one thing remains the same: We will continue to finance the best project ideas that bring together experts beyond borders to find fitting solutions for pressing challenges of our regions and cities!



## Programme funding strategy envisions a stronger central Europe through cooperation

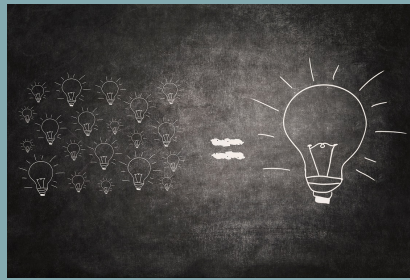
We have published a near-final version of our new Interreg Programme (IP) and are close to submitting it for official adoption. The IP is based on thorough analyses and takes into account recommendations from more than 1.000 relevant partners and environmental experts (see news below). This key document provides the strategic framework for all future calls and will help potential applicants in developing relevant project ideas already before the first call launches.

[Find out what we will fund](#)

## The new programme will sustainably strengthen central Europe

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a systematic process for evaluating environmental implications of programmes in view of mitigating possible negative impacts. The new Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme was thoroughly scrutinised by external SEA experts and national environmental authorities over the past year before they gave us the green light. Their feedback and inputs were integrated in the above IP and will ensure that central Europe becomes stronger through cooperation in a sustainable way.





## Curtain on first call contents will be lifted soon

The first call for project proposals is currently expected to open in the second half of 2021, following the official adoption of the programme by both our Member States and the European Commission. For those who want to start building their partnerships and share or join project ideas earlier than autumn, we are planning to release some basic cornerstones of the upcoming call towards the end of June. By that time we will also launch a brand new, fully digital platform for matchmaking as well as for submitting and browsing project ideas.

Stay tuned

### Connecting our projects

Each of our projects is achieving outstanding results for central Europe. However, when you bring them together, the picture becomes even more impressive. We have therefore created a new event format to encourage more cooperation among them. In digital "Roundtable Meetings" our projects present and discuss key outputs that they are working on order to identify potential synergies. [Outcomes of these exchanges are expected to become visible in form of intensified thematic cooperation and increased impacts.](#)

### Our projects aim to become RegioStars

Cooperation is central to take our regions and cities forward and we believe Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE projects deserve to be awarded for their achievements. We support four of them that are competing in the 2021 edition of the RegioStars Awards. The shortlisted finalists will be announced in September and the winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in December.

Meet our nominees: [CE-HEAT](#) [CONNECT2CE](#) [LOW-CARB](#) [STREFOWA](#)

### Inviting projects to tell better stories

We have invited our projects to submit their best stories in our contest "[Long story cut short](#)".

Any project funded by Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE between 2014 and 2020 can win social media training and a take-over of our programme social media channels as "editor of the day"! Projects can submit stories that demonstrate why #cooperationiscentral for them until the end of May.

To help projects get started, we have created a brand new tool, our [story outline generator](#).

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